

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's **EXCITER**



RARS EVENTS:

- The RARS General Membership meeting is the 1st Tuesday of the month.
- The RARS net meets every night @ 8 PM on 146.640.
- The RARS Technical & Trader's net is Saturdays @ 8:30 PM or following the RARS net.
- RARS meets for a monthly dinner on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

Attention Seasoned Hams Announcement by Chuck Littlewood K4HF

The Quarterly Century Wireless Association Piedmont Chapter 126 will hold its first quarter luncheon meeting March 20 at 11:30am at McCall's BBQ and Seafood Restaurant, Clayton, NC .The phone number is 919-550-3877. <http://www.mccallsbbq.com/> Further details and a link to map directions are there. All MEMBERS and GUESTS are welcome. Our guest speaker will be Wayne Ashworth, W4HG of Salisbury, who will give us a presentation on the ARRL's Log Book of the World Program. More info on our organization is available at: <http://www.qcwa.org/> and for the Piedmont Chapter: <http://www.qsl.net/qcwa126/> Local Raleigh contacts are Chuck, K4HF, Charlie, WB4DCM, and several other RARS Members.

Next RARS Meeting: March 2

7:30 PM: "RARSfest Update" & RARS Awards and Birthday Party. The meeting will be held in the sanctuary.

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The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the amateur radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, the society incorporated a new RARS and obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through amateur radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic needs; to educate members in radio technique, and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining amateur radio licenses.

Anyone interested in amateur radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are \$18 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay \$5 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12 per year. Dues for non-licensed associate members are \$9 per year. Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer or on the RARS website (www.rars.org).



The Exciter

The *Exciter* is the official newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It appears each month as a PDF on the RARS website at www.rars.org. Members receive email notification when the latest version is available. Please provide your email address to the Treasurer.

The *Exciter* welcome articles, advertisements, and other contributions. To submit a piece to the newsletter, please contact the Editor.

The views expressed in the *Exciter* are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or RARS.

The Editor reserves the right to edit any and all pieces.

The submission deadline for each month's *Exciter* is the third Friday of the preceding month. All submissions must be final. Drafts are not accepted.

Editor: Courtney Enzor KI4HOS (editor@rars.org)

RARS General Meeting

Date: First Tuesday of each month

Location: First Alliance Church
4400 Buffaloe Road
Raleigh, NC

Time: People begin arriving at 7 PM. The meeting officially begins at 7:30 PM.

RARS Monthly Dinner

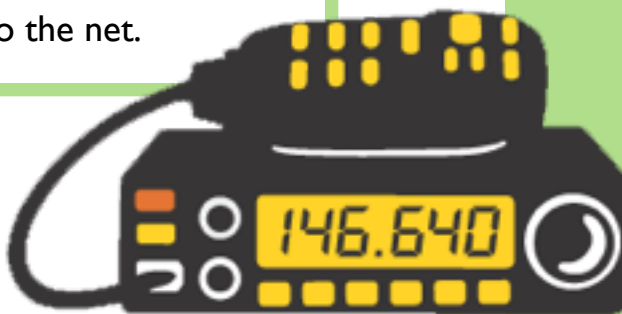
Join us on the 2nd Tuesday of each month for the RARS dinner. It's open to everyone: RARS members, non-members, friends, and family – feel free to bring your little ones! Dinner begins at 6:30 pm.

Listen to the nightly RARS net and check www.rars.org for details on the next dinner's location.

RARS Repeaters in Raleigh

145.130 (82.5 PL), 146.640, & 444.525 (82.5 PL)

Join us for the nightly RARS net @ 8 PM on the 146.640. All hams holding a Technician class license or higher are invited to check in. We welcome both RARS and non-RARS member to the net.



VE TESTING

The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August, and November RARS meetings; the RARSFest in April; the Cary Swapfest in July; the JARSFest in November; and following RARS license classes.

Please bring a photo ID, your current license, a copy of your current license, your \$15 exam fee, and any CSCEs you have for credit. Visit www.rars.org for more information.

March Birthdays

Tim	KD4MBC	3/1
Carl	KJ4WD	3/1
Marty	W4MY	3/2
Noble	N4UOQ	3/6
Karl	W4CHX	3/6
Sharon	KD4ACK	3/6
Rich	KR4AS	3/8
Bruce	WA9NEW	3/8
Jim	WA5APR	3/10
Bob	KC4CPD	3/10
David	KF4VXJ	3/12
Bob	WA4ZZN	3/12
Larry	K4LXV	3/17
Bill	K4WGE	3/20
Carl	W4HJZ	3/23
Greg	KE4PAX	3/23
Jacob	KJ4AWR	3/28
Bj	NC4BJ	3/29

Upcoming Hamfests

3/6- BirmingHAMfest (AL State Convention)
3/7 Birmingham, AL
<http://w4cue.com/fest.html>

3/6 Cave City Hamfest
Cave City, KY

3/13- Charlotte Hamfest
3/14 Harrisburg, NC
<http://www.w4bfb.org>

3/20 Charleston Area Hamfest
Charleston, WV
<http://www.w8gk.org>

3/27- Baltimore Hamboree & Computerfest
3/28 Timonium, MD
<http://www.gbhc.org/>

January 2010

RARS Net Reports

Checkins: 530
Traffic: 35/26
Minutes: 590
Sessions: 31

Special Interest Nets:
Checkins: 190
Minutes: 900
Sessions: 14

New RARS Members

Todd Ellis	N2XL
Dan Sears	KD4AGQ

Upcoming Public Service Events

Column by John Snellen AI4RT, Public Service Director

NC ODYSSEY OF THE MIND

March 6, 2010 - Saturday - Chapel Hill

This years OOTM regional tournament will be held among the buildings of Chapel Hill High School and Smith Middle School. This is a large event and we will need about 15-20 ham volunteers to handle the many communications challenges. We need ham volunteers for a number of positions including net control, shadowing, classroom stationary and others. A handi-talkie, spare batteries and earphone/headset will be needed.

Ham Coordinator: Brian Young (ka9qjt) ka9qjt@hotmail.com

Event Address: 1709 High School Rd.

Chapel Hill, NC 27516

MS SPRING FLING

April 3, 2010 - Saturday - Morrisville

This is a one day 25 & 50 mile training event for cyclists in preparation for the MS Ride in New Bern in September.

Please note that the date for this event is the same as RARSfest and as such, we do not have a ham coordinator. If you would like to coordinate or participate as a ham volunteer in this event please contact John (ai4rt) ai4rt@hotmail.com

2010 TRIANGLE WALK MS

April 24, 2010 - Saturday - RBC Center Raleigh

This large walk event consists of 1, 3 & 5 mile walking courses starting and finishing at the RBC Center in Raleigh. We will need 15-20 ham volunteers for a variety of assignments including shadows, water stops, SAGs and net control.

Ham Coordinator: John Snellen (ai4rt)

e-mail: ai4rt@hotmail.com

Event Website: www.walknct.nationalmssociety.org

2010 CAM (CARY/APEX/MORRISVILLE) RELAY FOR LIFE

May 1, 2010 - Saturday - Cary High School

The American Cancer Society CAM Relay for Life is a waking event at the Cary High School athletic field. This event is a great place for hams just starting to work public

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service events. We need ham volunteers primarily to shadow event coordinators and organizers. A handi-talkie, spare batteries and earphone/headset will be needed. Time required 7:00am to 12:00noon Saturday.

Communication Frequency: 147.42 Simplex

Ham Coordinator: John Snellen (ai4rt)

e-mail: ai4rt@hotmail.com

Event Website: www.main.acseevents.org

The most versatile pieces of equipment for working as a ham volunteer during public service events are as follows:

PRIMARY EQUIPMENT

- * Dual band (144/440) 25 watt (min) mobile transceiver
- * A 1/2-5/8 wave well grounded dual band mobile antenna

EXTRAS THAT ARE HELPFUL

- * Dual Band (144/440) hand held transceiver
- * Extra set of charged batteries
- * Ear phones & speaker mic or boom mic/headphone set
- * Higher gain antenna than the supplied rubber duck. For example Comet BN-24 or SMA-24 or Diamond RHF40 or SRH77CA. There are also many other hi-gain HT antennas available.

We look forward working with our ham volunteers this year to make Public Service events safe and enjoyable for spectators, sponsors and participants. Remember: keep those batteries charged and earplugs handy and check back to this site and [Carolina Helping Hams](#) frequently for upcoming events.

Ham Radio Class

A class to prepare interested folks for the **Technician Class License** (entry level) will be held this spring, by an instructor from the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society (RARS) and hosted by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. This 2-part class will prepare participants for the FCC exam. The exam will be administered at the end of the last class session.

The class is open to the public. Details follow:

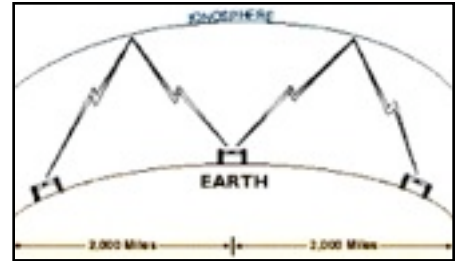
Dates: Saturdays
March 13, 8 am – 12:30 pm
March 27, 8 am – 12:00 pm; Exam at 1:00 pm

Location: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
5060 Six Forks Rd
Raleigh, NC 27609

Instructor: Mike Murphy WA4BPJ, Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

Cost: \$25.00 for the class (includes manual) and \$15.00 for the exam fee

To learn more about ham radio, please visit the following website: www.arrl.org. All participation is by pre-registration. **To register for this class, please contact RARS Education Director Virginia Enzor NC4VA at nc4va@nc.rr.com or (919) 469-8555 by Wednesday, March 10.** She will be happy to answer any questions about the class, licensing, ham radio or radios.



November 17, 2009 RARS Board Meeting Minutes

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society Board of Directors met on Tuesday, November 17, 2009 at the Triangle Radio Reading Service on Six Forks Road, Raleigh. The following Board members were present: Ken KI4OTO, Selene KG4RMT, Hank K4HM, Gary KN4AQ, John AI4RT, Chuck K4HF, Virginia NC4VA, Karl W4CHX, Greg KE4PAX, Jeff AC4ZO, Steve KJ4BX, Charlie WB4DCM, and Mike WA4BPJ. The following RARS members were present: Jack N6UYB, Bobbie KD4ZVW, Cliff W4FT, Alan AB4OZ.

The meeting was called to order by President Selene at 7:02 PM. The minutes of the last Board meeting were approved as published.

VP Karl W4CHX advised that the December meeting would include entertainment by the Encore Singers. RARS will furnish basic food items (should be drinks) and the membership is asked to bring something (a snack) to share. The January meeting program is not final at this time. The February meeting program will be "contesting".

Treasurer Greg KE4PAX announced that we have 229 members. He also indicated that we are paying fees for our savings account. It was moved, seconded and passed that the treasurer look for other possible financial institutions to move our account to and report back at the next meeting. All receipts for the 2008 field day have been received.

Committee Reports:

- Virginia NC4VA Education advised that three classes had been conducted during 2009. The next class will likely be March, 2010. When we remit a donation for the use of rooms at the First Alliance Church, we need to include a thank you note.
- Chuck K4HF advised that ICOM will have a manufacturers representative at the 2009 RARSFest.
- President Selene reported that the VE Team did testing at the last class and also at JARSFest.
- John AI4RT Hamfest Chair would like to thank Hank K4HM for doing such a fine job of convincing ICOM to attend the 2010 RARSFest. The next hamfest meeting will be on Monday, January 25, 2010 at the Triangle Radio Reading Service.
- Chuck K4HF ARRL Liaison, asked that everyone read the editorial in the December issue of QST.
- Gary KN4AQ FM Repeaters advised that the 525 repeater still has not been repaired.

Old Business:

- The first issue of old business was the complaint from an individual that the Sunday night Apex ERC net violated certain FCC provisions. After extensive

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discussion and review by the Board, the following reply was drafted and approved unanimously to be sent to the complainant: "The RARS Board of Directors reviewed your complaint about the Apex Emergency Response Communications Net at its November 17, 2009 meeting.

- Following that review, our only question was if the net was operated for the benefit of the public. We asked for and received clarification of that point from the net manager, Virginia NC4VA. We are satisfied that the net operation meets both the letter and spirit of both the FCC rules and the ARRL's guidelines for appropriate use of Amateur Radio."
- The next issue of old business was the file cabinet located at Dick's KD4ISC residence. Chuck K4HF will work with Dick to box up the items for storage. The contents were discussed, which include meeting minutes and Exciters back to 1969. Jack N6UYB volunteered to convert some of the documents into digital media for backup. Jeff AC4ZO also volunteered to convert diskettes to CD for backup.

New Business:

- Gary KN4AQ moved that the December Board of Directors meeting be cancelled. The motion was seconded and approved by the Board.

Board Comments:

- Hank K4HM raised the question as to how long electronic data will last.
- Virginia NC4VA thanked the Board for its comments about the Apex ERC net.
- Karl W4CHX observed that the Board worked through issues very well.
- Steve KJ4BX advised that the RARS tracker units worked flawlessly for the City of Oaks Marathon and thanked the Board for the use of the 146.64 repeater as a temporary "digipeater" during the marathon.
- Chuck K4HF thanked Virginia NC4VA for her work on the net. He suggested that we have the usual second Tuesday night supper in December. He also acknowledged the outstanding/excellent effort by Mike WA4BPJ on the field day effort.
- Secretary Charles WB4DCM thanked our President for her leadership and direction.
- Ken KI4OTO wondered if it would be desirable to video our programs for distribution. After some discussion, it was decided that would not be feasible at this time.

There being no other business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 PM

January 19, 2010 RARS Board Meeting Minutes

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society Board of Directors met on Tuesday, January 19, 2010 at the Triangle Radio Reading Service, Raleigh. The following board members were present: John AI4RT, Chuck K4HF, Ken KI4OTO, Karl W4CHX, Justin AJ4MJ, Hank K4HM, Selene KG4RMT, Greg KE4PAX, Gary KN4AQ, Don WA4AVU, and Charles WB4DCM. In addition, Neal N4HAF and David KF4VXJ were present.

Karl W4CHX called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The minutes of the November 17, 2009 Board meeting were approved.

VP Justin AJ4MJ advised that the March membership meeting would be the birthday and awards meeting. President Karl stated that the February meeting program will be "Contesting" presented by Andy NI4S and Marty W4MY. It was noted that technical programs tend to bring out more membership.

Treasurer Greg KE4PAX gave the treasurers report. We currently have 239 members.

Recent payments have been made to First Alliance Church for use of their facilities, the Encore Singers, upgrades to the trackers, ARRL contest plaques, RTPnet website, and a deposit to the Fair Grounds for the RARSFest.

- Committee Reports:
- John AI4RT Public Service received a call asking if RARS would sponsor a blood drive. We discussed the issue of a blood drive at a regular meeting but also at the RARSFest. John made a motion that we vote to see if we want the blood mobile at the RARSFest. Gary KN4AQ seconded the motion. The motion was approved. John will coordinate with the Fair Grounds management.
- Gary KN4AQ Public Information Officer advised that there are not currently any active hams in Haiti. Haiti does have about 100 licensed amateur radio operators.
- Chuck K4HF advised that he had spoken to Virginia NC4VA Education Director and that there will be a Technician Class on March 13 and 27. The class will be given at the LDS "stake house" at the corner of Six Forks Rd and Shelly Rd. There is already a large response to this class.
- Gary KN4AQ FM Repeaters advised that I46.64 repeater experienced some technical difficulties on this past Sunday. Based upon the problem, they think that it is a cable/connector issue. The problem has gone away, for now. The 444.525 repeater is still at the repair facility. Gary mentioned that he is thinking of moving the I45.13 repeater.
- John AI4RT RARSFest Chair stated there will be a meeting on Monday, the 25 at 7:00 PM at this location. ICOM will have a presence at our hamfest and the ARRL Youth Editor will also be present.

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- Chuck K4HF ARRL Liaison advised that N2ZZ will be the new Vice Director of the Roanoke Division. N2COP will take over from N4IB on April 1. ARRL will do 2 sessions at our hamfest. In addition, Basic Skywarn training will be given at our hamfest.
- Ken KI4OTO At Large Director raise raised the issue of having a modulated CW net on one of the repeaters. He will pursue the issue. Next he suggested that we need to work on UHF/VHF simplex operations. In the event of major failures, the repeaters might not be functioning. Next he spoke about getting people involved and keeping them active. “Elmer” pools, email lists, RARS Yahoo list as a way of connecting people seeking help and those that can provide it. Ken, Justin and Hank will work on this last issue.
- Don WA4AVU At Large Director has the tracker units. They have been updated with GPS and have a message capability.
- Steve KJ4BX At Large Director was not present but has advised that we will have to use a classroom for our February meeting.
- Hank K4HM Webmaster advised that he is still working on the membership data base.

Old Business:

- Treasurer Greg stated that Morgan Stanley charges us a fee to maintain our account with them. It was suggested that he look into switching to BB&T.
- Chuck K4HF is reviewing the contents of the old file cabinet. There are some old QSL cards and he suggested that they be used at the Youth Lounge or give them out at a meeting.

New Business:

- A member has asked if the RARS budget could handle the purchase of a repeater to be used in relief efforts in Haiti. The board discussed the issue at length, including the fact that even other hams in the neighboring regions had been unable to gain entry to Haiti at this time. It was the boards opinion that the ARRL is likely to organize an effort which would provide a more feasible opportunity for RARS to lend support.
- RARS Repeater Technical Group is being formed to help Gary KN4AQ. Two of our repeaters are currently off the air. Discussion followed as to the best way to get the technical help that Gary needs. Gary will develop a list of potential committee members.

Ken KI4OTO reminded everyone of the Winter Field Day on January 30. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

February 2, 2010 RARS General Meeting Minutes

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 2, 2010 at the First Alliance Church, Buffaloe Rd, Raleigh, NC. There were 39 members and guests present.

The meeting was called to order by President Karl W4CHX at 7:30 PM. He welcomed members and guests to the meeting. Due to the fact that the EXCITER had not been published, President Karl suggested that the minutes of the January meeting not be voted upon until the March meeting. A motion and second was made to that effect and then approved.

VP Justin KJ4MJ announced that the meeting for this evening would be “Contesting” and presented by Andy NI4S and Marty W4MY. The program for March will be RARSFest. The April program will be “Receiver Design”. The May program will be “Trilateration and Modulation—the GPS Connection”.

Treasurer Greg KE4PAX gave the Treasurer’s Report. RARS now has 240 members. He presented a brief overview of our financial situation. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the Treasurer’s Report.

Announcements:

- The ARRL will accept donations through their “ham aid” program for relief in Haiti. They will be donating equipment belonging to ARRL along with equipment that has been donated by amateur radio companies. Cash donations will facilitate shipment. RARS Web has information about ham activity and donations for Haiti. President Karl announced that the Board was very interested in helping and would discuss the matter at the February 16 meeting. All members are invited to attend the Board meeting. You may go to ARRL home page or RARS.org for further information for donations.
- The RARS dinner will be held on Tuesday, February 9 at the Golden Corral on Glenwood Ave.
- The RARS Board meeting will be on Tuesday, February 16 at the Triangle Radio Reading Service on Six Forks Rd at 7:00 PM. Members are invited.
- The after meeting gathering will be at Applebee’s following the meeting.

Board Comments:

- John AI4RT RARSFest Chairmen advised that RARSFest would be held on Saturday, April 3, 2010 at the N. C. State Fair Grounds. He has flyers, pre-sale

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tickets, and is looking for volunteers. In particular, he needs someone to run the CW contest. There will only be one more meetings until the RARSFest.

- John AI4RT Public Service Coordinator indicated that the first event will be the Odyssey of the Mind in Chapel Hill on March 6. He needs about 20 volunteers.
- Virginia NC4VA Education Coordinator stated that there will be a Tech Class on March 13 and 27. The cost is \$25 plus \$15 for the examination. Attendance is by preregistration. Flyers are available.
- Virginia NC4VA Skywarn Coordinator announced that the Skywarn Net will meet tonight at 9:15PM on the 146.88 repeater. Be sure to check in to find out what will be happening to the weather this weekend.
- Rod KI4LSN announced this is the 100th anniversary year of the Boy Scouts of America. There will be a communications event at Camp Durant and volunteers are needed. Please contact Chris Thompson, KI4MMV, from the roster.
- Selene KG4RMT Past President announced that the Richmond Frost Fest is February 6. Also, the JARS auction will be held at the Panther Branch Community Center off of road 1010.
- Alan AB4OZ suggested that we refrain from making comments on the repeaters about being away from home. Unscrupulous individuals can look up call signs, get addresses, and know that the owners are not at home.

Joe NILVN was the lucky winner of the door prize drawing.

President Karl recognized visitors Jack Trollman WB6ZY, Warren Melhado, WM2Z, and two others visitors whose names were not recorded.

The program this evening was “Contesting” as presented by Andy NI4S (former RARS President) and Marty W4MY (RARS member). Once again RARS had an outstanding program.

The meeting was adjourned by President Karl at 8:55 PM.

Local Amateur Radio Nets

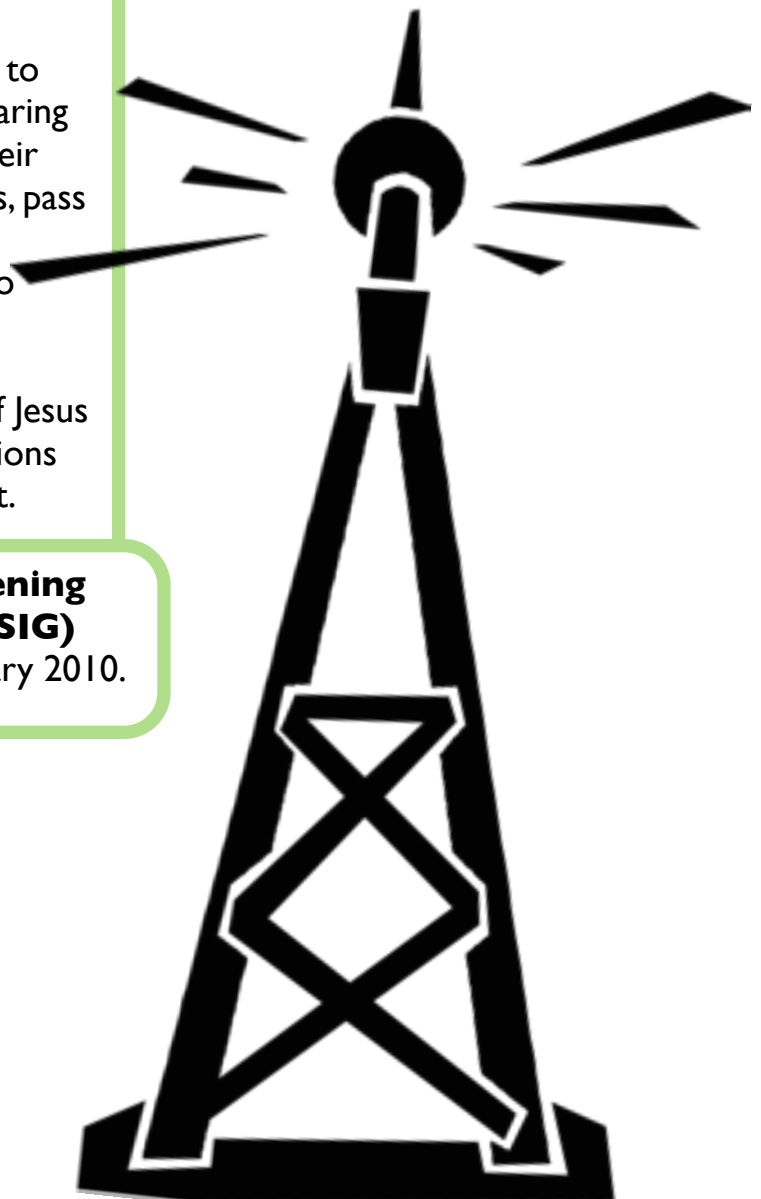
The **RARS Technical & Trader's Net** is held on Saturday evenings on the 146.640 after the 8 PM RARS net.

Apex Emergency Response Communications Net

This net meets weekly each Sunday evening @ 9 PM on the 146.640 repeater. The purpose of the net is to assist ham radio operators in preparing to respond to emergencies, test their equipment, improve operating skills, pass traffic, and to provide those with a common interest an opportunity to meet. The Apex ERC Net provides amateur radio emergency communications for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. All stations are invited to participate in this net.

FYI: The **Tarheel Shortwave Listening (SWL) Special Interest Group (SIG) Net** has been discontinued as of January 2010.

The **VOIP Hurricane Net** is held Sundays at 00:00 UTC on the 146.775 repeater with a tone of 88.5 (IRLP node 4260). For information about activation details, go to www.voipwx.net.



Local Amateur Radio Nets

Join us every evening at 8 PM on the 146.640 repeater for the **RARS Two-Meter Net**. You can give a ragchew, check in and out (this counts for our total numbers reported to the ARRL!), make announcements, and pass traffic. We also offer National Traffic System traffic training. All licensed stations are welcome to participate in the net as often as they can. This net is also a great way to learn about amateur radio if you are newly licensed!

The **PCTN (Piedmont Costal Traffic Net)** meets every night at 9 PM on the 146.880. The purpose of the net is to handle/pass NTS formal messages. Amateur stations are encouraged to check in and participate. The backup repeater is the 147.105 (PL tone 82.5).

The **Wake County ARES Net** meets Thursdays around 2115 on the 146.880 repeater. We provide discussion and training for the implementation and provision of emergency communications for our served agencies, such as the American Red Cross and the local and state Emergency Operations Center. Please join us. For more information, check out www.wakeares.org.

Central Carolina SKYWARN

Please join us each Tuesday @ 9:15 PM on the 146.880 repeater for the CCS net. On each net there are announcements, check-ins by county, and often a program or training spot. Check us out at www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net.

March 23: Basic Spotter Training, Part 1.
March 30: Basic Spotter Training, Part 2.
Stations must check into the nets for both Parts 1 & 2 to receive a Spotter Certificate.

Please join us on the **Carolina 440 Net** every Monday night at 7:30 PM. This ragchew net utilizes the Carolina 440 UHF Link Repeater System. Comprised of the Raleigh, Down East, and Coastal Wilmington link systems, there are currently 19 repeaters on the system, covering 21,168 square miles. For a list of these repeaters, please visit www.carolina440.net.

**Looking for the latest in
public service opportunities?
Visit www.rars.org to find
out about upcoming events
and sign up.**

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's

EXCITER

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